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1 March 1973



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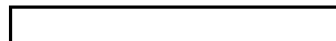
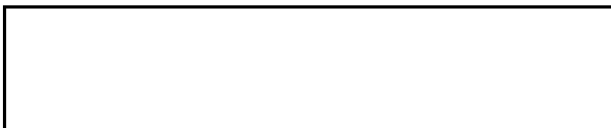
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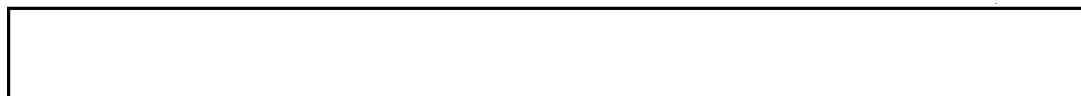
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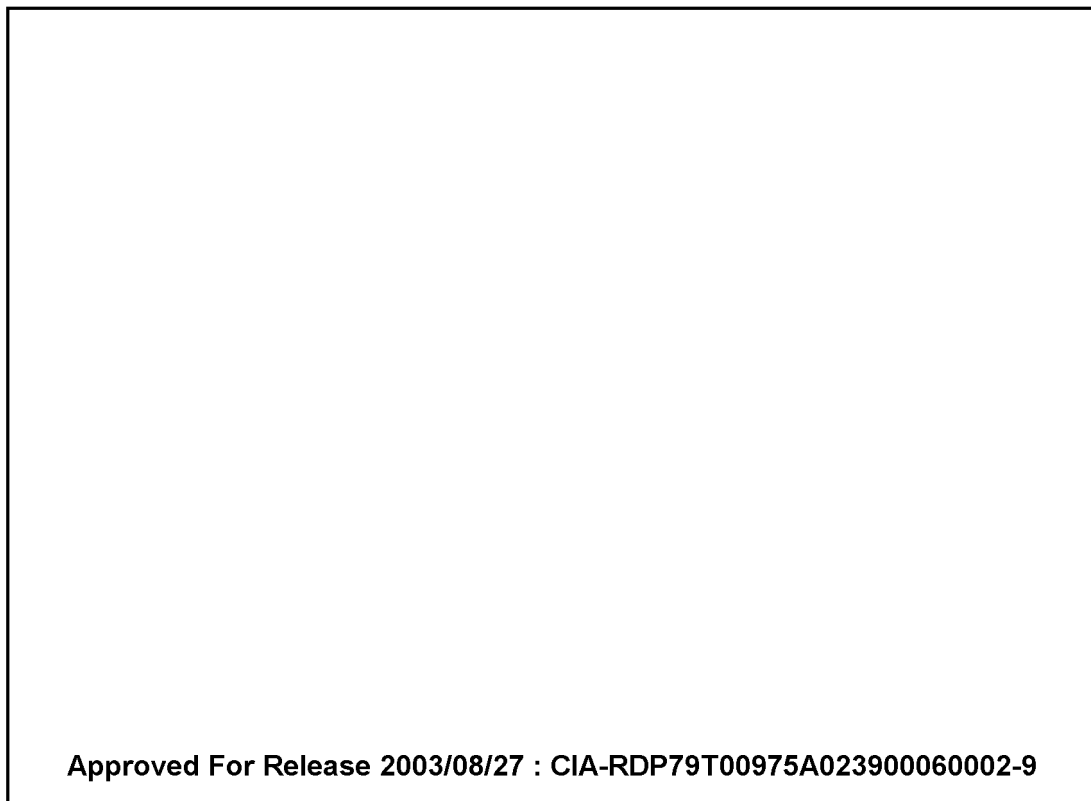
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ARGENTINA: Junta meets today to decide strategy against Peronists. (Page 3)



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GREECE: Student demonstrations take on political overtones. (Page 6)



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ARGENTINA: The military junta will meet today to decide whether it will move to proscribe the Peronists or otherwise prevent a possible Peronist victory in the election scheduled for 11 March.

In a junta meeting on 22 February, President Lanusse again sought to have the elections postponed or at least restricted in order to prevent a Peronist victory. The majority opinion of the three armed services, however, was still opposed to any such move and the junta decided to postpone any decision until this week. [REDACTED]

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At the last meeting Lanusse reportedly obtained junta agreement to the preparation of a law that would prohibit the candidacy of anyone who had been implicated in extremist activities. Such a law would be aimed directly at the Peronist presidential candidate, Hector Campora, but would still permit most Peronist candidates for congress and provincial offices to participate.

Those senior officers committed to the election may still carry the day with the argument that no decision should be made on proscribing the Peronists until the size of the threat is measured by the balloting on 11 March. There is little chance that Campora will obtain the needed majority in the first round and, with the runoff scheduled for 8 April, the military would have nearly a month in which to maneuver before making its move. [REDACTED]

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GREECE: Student demonstrations for academic reforms have taken on political overtones following several tactical blunders by the government.

The government's major mistake appears to have been a decree rescinding student draft deferments for those who continue to boycott classes. Students have been striking for improvements in administration and curriculum for over a month, but the decree brought student unrest to a head resulting in larger and more vociferous demonstrations. Police, reacting sharply to taunting by the students, injured many of them in breaking up the rallies. An agreement to observe a ten-day cooling-off period after which government officials will renew negotiations with the students saved the situation from getting out of control earlier this week. Nevertheless, most students regard this as an armistice and there is no sign that they will drop their demands, which are widely viewed in Greece as legitimate.

The government is now faced with dealing with the fallout from student disorders in other major segments of the population. Former politicians have been quick to cite the disorders as one more instance of the government's failure in six years of rule to come to grips with problems. Government leaders probably are even more concerned that key army officers will be disturbed by the government's indecisiveness. At least one senior military officer has said that because the government has seriously erred, it will have to find some compromise solution. One indication of the government's sensitivity on this score has been a blackout on press stories of student problems.

Although there is now an uneasy standoff between the government and the students, the inept way the problem has been handled will increase future vulnerabilities. Prime Minister Papadopoulos, who has remained silent so far, will have to act carefully to avoid an increase in disaffection with his rule within certain military circles. [REDACTED]

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